

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Monday, Sept. 23, 2024
Kinloch Golf Club
Manakin-Sabot, Va.

**Stephen Behr Jr.,
Atlanta, Ga.**

Round of 64
def. Sam Jackson, 4 and 2



Q. Did it mean a lot to win this match today?

Stephen Behr: “Playing against Sam (Jackson) is hard because he’s a good friend, it’s hard because he’s a great player, and it’s hard because I knew I had that history of losing to him last year. When you lose in this tournament it hurts so I wanted to come out here and focus on me and just play my game. If I lost I was okay with that.”

“I would like to think that Sam and I are two of the best players in this field. So whenever you get a great caliber of player like that in the first round it’s scary. No one wants to go home in the first round. Unfortunately one of us was going to go home after today.”

Q. What did you do better in this match than in last year’s quarterfinal?

Stephen Behr: “[I] stayed very even keel and I was really committed to what I was doing. I just focused on what I needed to do and was less wrapped up in the heat of he hits this shot and I hit the next shot and how are you going to respond. It’s easy when you are out there to play the Nick Faldo or the Johnny Miller to yourself of ebbs and flows and the momentum shifts. At the end of the day you just have to execute your shots. It’s all you can do, everything else is a distraction.”

Q. What did you like about your game today?

Stephen Behr: “I did not make a bogey, which I always pride myself when doing that in match play because that means if you lost a hole you didn’t give it away. And that was a combination of I was very steady ball-striking wise and then if I did miss a green I missed it in the right place. My short game was sharp. You have to make the clutch 5- and 6-footers out here and I made a lot of them.”

Q. Can you talk about that stretch where you pulled away on the outward nine?

Stephen Behr: “I hit a hybrid into [No.] 7, it was playing long today. I hit it in there to 8 feet and made a really good birdie. I followed it up with another hybrid into [No.] 8 to about 8 feet. This course is long for me. People maybe on paper would say it’s not exactly my best fit but I do have a lot of confidence in my hybrid and my longer clubs. I feel like I have a shot against anyone I play. That stretch was huge today.”

Note – Behr and Jackson played both practice rounds together in the U.S. Mid-Amateur for the second consecutive year. Behr is competing in his fifth Mid-Amateur. He advanced to quarterfinals last year, losing to Jackson, 1 down. Behr made the Round of 16 in 2018 and 2021.